

### **Remarks**

Claims 1, 3-10 and 21 are pending in the present application. Independent Claims 1 and 21 are presently amended.

#### *1.) Rejections for Obviousness under 35 USC §103:*

##### *a.) Claims 1 and 21:*

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1 and 21 as being obvious over US Patent 6,509,841 (Colton) in view of US Patent 5,963,551 (Minko). Specifically, the Examiner states that Colton teaches “receiving ordered data signals from the meter” while Minko teaches “analyzing the data signals to detect a missing signal” and “compensating for the missing signal by adding a predetermined value to a sequence counter”. The Examiner further states that “calculating a temporary variable based on a present data signal and a previous data signal” is not explicitly disclosed by Minko, but that it would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to calculate a temporary variable equal to the difference between the current and previous packet index. The Examiner concludes that it would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine Colton with Minko.

In response, Applicant has amended Claims 1 and 21 to further claim “correcting the value of a last valid direction indicator that indicates flow direction in the meter,” Support for this amendment is found in Paragraphs 0050 and 0054 - 0056 of the present application.

Applicant notes that Minko does not teach, disclose or suggest the correction of a direction indicator for the flow direction of the meter as claimed. In fact, Minko is not directed towards meters and consequently does not address flow direction monitoring in any manner. Therefore, the rejection fails for at least these reasons.

##### *b.) Claims 3-10:*

The Examiner has rejected Claims 3-10 as being obvious over Colton in view of Minko and various other references. Since Claims 3-10 are dependent from independent

Claim 1, this rejection is overcome for at least the reasons mentioned previously in Section 1.a.

2.) Conclusion:

In view of the preceding remarks, all of the outstanding rejections have been overcome. A notice of allowance for all pending claims is respectfully requested. Please apply any additional fees or credits to Deposit Account #: 50-0954, Reference #: N2215-63142.

Respectfully Submitted,

<u>/davidmixon/</u>	<u>02/20/2009</u>
David E. Mixon	Date
Reg. No. 43,809	

Bradley Arant Rose & White LLP  
200 Clinton Ave. West, Suite 900  
Huntsville, AL 35801-4900

Telephone: (256) 517-5100  
Facsimile: (256) 517-5200